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**DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:**

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS to Frederic Dan Huntington. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers (box 12, folder 7).

Elm Valley - Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> 1835 - Thursday even. 7-

My Dear Frederic, I am going to do what I recommended to you to do, keep a sort of record of the events of the day; and when I have a convenient opportunity send it to you, that you may not lose all knowledge of us, or interest in us.

We have visited you several times to day in spirit, and in conversation, and I imagine you have arranged your furniture, and swept and dusted your room, and find yourself with your room-mate very comfortably situated, and ready and able to go on with your studies to advantage. I am quite happy in this persuasion; because we read in the Book of books, this direction, and promise united, "Commit thy way unto the Lord and he shall give thee the desire of thine heart; for all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

The two brothers have gone into town to collect, if they can, seven-ty persons who will be willing to unite in a singing school to be taught by Mr. Fairbly. This gentleman has agreed to teach three months in Hadley, twice a week, for the sum of 1750 dollars; 25 less than they offered him at Greenfield.

Your father is quite down with a cold, is now sitting by the kitchen fire, to avoid the chattering of five females; yes, five without your mother; by this you will understand that Mary and Harriette Mills returned, (before dinner), with Theophilus who went this morning to N. on business. We had a letter from Edward last evening dated Franklin Maine, between Bangor & Boston. He says nothing about William nor about coming home; the letter was written Sep. 28<sup>th</sup>. Saturday evening half past ten. All gone to rest, in peace and comfort; what obligations are we under to ~~our~~ our guide by day and our guard by night! The pillars of a cloud and the pillars of fire still attend us, tho' too often unnoticed.

We miss you often; at our social meals, and our social fireside; at the morning and evening sacrifices, and also at our religious books, and elevating employment. But thanks to God, we would not mourn your absence; we may hope for a meeting in this life. Some of our number have reached the end of their journey, when it was but just

begun; and we are permitted to think of them, as the inhabitants of a world of purity and peace and love, where no discordant passions agitate the bosom, and no doubt or fears interrupt the communion of the blessed society. We are travelling on, as we hope, in the same path. May we often hear the voice of our great leader, saying, "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Let us not expect or desire, uninterrupted enjoyment. We know from the word of God and our own experience, that difficulties and trouble are essential to our progress in virtue and holiness. Desiring this progress above every thing else, let us leave with Infinite wisdom and goodness, the means, by which it shall be attained.

Charles came over this afternoon and brought his family. The children are better; but Fanny looks very sickly, and continues to have a pain in her ear and the sides of her throat. She seems almost ready for heaven. Your friend Poor called here; he seems very friendly to you. Harriette will return to ~~anxious~~ <sup>anxious</sup>. May the Lord of the sabbath, give us all a sabbath blessing.

Sabbath evening. This is your father's birth day; we are descending toward the grave. But I beg you will not tremble at the thought.

Death is the gate of endless joy. And shall we dread to enter there? If we are christians we ardently desire to see God and Christ; but we cannot see them as we wish, ~~till~~ we die. We also long to be free from sin, to serve our Maker without wavering, and without imperfection, but this we cannot do till we die. Death then to the believer is great gain. It will bring us to the spirits of just men made perfect to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, and to Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant, and to God the Judge of all. We all attended meeting, Theodore and Ben. at the Mills. Your father, Miss Paige, Mary, and Susan at Hadley and the rest of us at N. Mr. Stearns preached in the morning to mourners, from their word, <sup>Job</sup> 14. How happy is the man whom God wreatheth. This afternoon from Proverbs 4<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Ponder the path of thy feet. On the failings of christians, and I found myself reprov'd; may it not be in vain. Hope you will have a blank book and keep a sabbath record.

Monday evening 9 o'clock - Marianno and the younger Miss Dana called here this afternoon. Marianno is going, ~~next~~ when the ship is Dana return to make a visit of a few weeks at Cambridge Port, and Boston. Turn to the first page, by mistake I began on the wrong side.

Mr. Frederic D. Huntington

Student

Amherst College

Mother

This letter begins at the <sup>upper</sup> page.  
On Saturday afternoon, our girls, Harriet, Elizabeth, and Mary, visited Mount Warren. For want of a better conveyance, they rode with Theodore part of the way in the old red wagon, or in the cart. Elizabeth came home much delighted with the refreshing sight of the ~~colleges~~ particularly of the door of the chapel, as she thought possibly you might be standing in it. Her evenings last week were apparently not very pleasant, we thought she wanted you at her left hand, to help her about her studies. As Mary was fearful that something you said to her about not being married, the day before you left us, gave her some uneasiness.

I suppose you have seen the comet. It is visible all the evening, just above and very near the great Bear. The train is not very brilliant. Indeed to my dim vision it is hardly perceptible.

Wednesday forenoon. Yesterday afternoon Charles and Helen accompanied Edward Clarke and wife and sister, and Mrs. Christopher Clarke to Mount Warren. They left little Charles with us while they were gone. <sup>Fanny will us to attend school</sup> This morning your father, Theophilus and Ben. have gone to the mountain to pick up apples. Theodore stays at home, is husking corn I believe. Your father and mother had an invitation last night, to drink tea this evening with widow Maj. Smith, in company with Doct. Brown and lady. This morning Mrs. Doct. Porter sent a note, requesting our company and Bethies, at their house to meet friends at tea today. What a pity, as calls of this kind are so rare, that there should be two for the same time!

I intend to leave this at Doct. Porter's store, to be sent to you. I hope soon to receive a long letter from you. Hope it will not be a task as irksome, as writing hitherto is, to one of the girls in our family. I feel a kind of satisfaction in ~~that~~ that that your writing desk is the same which was used by your mother who is now a glorified spirit, and is perhaps permitted, as he himself hoped might be the case, to witness your faithful efforts in duty, and even assist you in ~~the~~ arduous work - with the most earnest desire for your happiness and improvement I am as ever your truly affectionate mother

Elizabeth

We had a letter last evening from Edward dated ~~the~~ He said he might be absent 3 or 4 weeks longer. We also had a letter from Mrs. Fisher. She says the mill in which Mr. F. owned a share ~~has~~ been consumed with some other buildings by fire. The loss to the firm, is eight thousand dollars.